

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Pat. App. Ser. Nos. 10/213,966 and 10/213,963, both filed August 7, 2002, and both now abandoned.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

An alternative exemplary embodiment of a riser system 10 in accordance with the present invention is illustrated in Fig. 5. In this embodiment, a riser "spur" pipe 24, comprising a short, substantially vertical pipe section, is connected at one end to the wellhead 14. As in the first embodiment above, an elbow section 18 connects the other end of the spur pipe to a substantially vertical riser pipe section 20, which in turn, is connected to and supported by the floating vessel 22. In the first embodiment of Fig. [[1]] 4, the elbow section 18 is bent at an angle of about 90° to accommodate the horizontal and vertical sections of pipe. In the second embodiment of Fig. 5, the elbow is bent at an angle of about a 45° to accommodate the substantially vertical stub pipe, and accordingly, the lower end portion 24 of the vertical pipe section 20 is curved tangentially at about 45° to attach to the elbow. Of course, a plurality of elbows having a variety of other included angles may be used to connect the sections of the riser together, and in some possible embodiments, the walls of the elbows can incorporate bellows-like convolutions to render them more flexible.